

The Farmington Consensus 1997 and 2017. Times change, values remain

For the title of this editorial I originally wanted to be inspired by the name of Erich Maria Remarque's famous book *All Quiet on the Western Front* and titled it *All Quiet on the Research Front*. Fortunately, I rejected this idea. I also remember another book by this author, namely *Heaven Has No Favourites*. However, I rejected this idea, too.

In fact, I just wanted to point out that the current version of the Farmington Consensus, 2.1, may not be a significant change for someone who is a professional in publishing addiction science, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, that it applies to all those who seek to publish in peer-reviewed journals. The authors of this important document themselves state that over the last twenty years there have been major changes in the publishing of addiction science.

What are the changes between 1997 and 2017? The Farmington Consensus was released in 1997 by a group of editors of addiction journals who met in Farmington and more recently received strong support as a standard for academic publishing in addiction science from the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE), established in 2001. It is evident that the ISAJE and the individual editors are behind the extension of these ethical principles and their effective present application. We are happy that the *Adiktologie* journal is a proud member of the ISAJE and can play a role in the dissemination of these principles in the Czech Republic.

Opting for a very technical approach, I used Microsoft Word to compare the 1997 and 2017 versions. Such a comparison allows us to see that a number of paragraphs have been added to the 2017 version and many have been extended. Some extensions are rather technical and make the previous information more specific. It is certainly important for teams of authors to understand the way in which authorship is defined, as implied by the statement "*all listed authors on a paper should have been personally and substantially involved in the work leading to the paper*". Another very important point is the greater emphasis that is placed on ensuring the ethics of scientific work. From my point of view, there is also a growing demand for research ethics, which is ensured through the approvals granted by the relevant ethics committee. Stating that "*authors should give an assurance that ethical safeguards have been met, including protection of human and animal rights*," the Consensus is not explicit about the ethical committee. Nevertheless, to prepare the ethical committee proposal and go through the process of obtaining a positive ethical committee decision for a research project seem to be an absolute standard for publication.

The 2017 version of the Farmington Consensus addresses the qualifications of, and what is expected from, editors and editorial boards. Attention is paid to the expertise of the board members and their active involvement in the

work of editorial and/or review boards. As suggested in paragraph 7.2, photographs, too, are becoming a standard feature of editorial board web pages. The leading journals in the field, e.g. *Addiction*, have been following this recommendation fully.

Much attention is focused on publishers' obligation to demonstrate their transparency in all publishing operations and adhere to the high ethical standards established by organisations of journal editors.

The remarkable development in addiction research and publishing addiction science experienced over the last two decades inevitably had to be reflected in the professional rules that define this area. This is exactly what the 2017 version brings. Authors, editors, and publishers are increasingly expected to declare their ethical approaches, especially with regard to funding, and do their jobs even better than before. With the development of technology, their work is more visible, but at the same time, it involves greater responsibility than before. Because of the different ways of financing research and the interests of different stakeholders in our field, the demands on all those involved are enormous.

Most researchers should not find it too difficult to fulfil all the expectations of the new version of the Farmington Consensus. Being acquainted with this crucial document, the vast majority of them are fully aware of the rules, understand them, and do their best to comply with them.

The recent version of the Farmington Consensus is also a commitment for the publishers, editors, and reviewers of the *Adiktologie* journal. We are happy to be able to bring quality research to our readers while respecting the above principles and are committed to working hard in the forthcoming years as we pursue addiction science as a great passion and pleasure rather than ordinary work.

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REFERENCES

<http://www.isaje.net/farmington-consensus.html>